



# Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

3175 W. Sixth Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, California, 90020

(213) 738-2788  
<http://www.lahumanrelations.org>

## MINUTES COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Commission Meeting of August 3, 2015\*

Community and Senior Services (CSS)

3175 W. Sixth Street, Room 304 – Ray Bartlett Conference/Teamwork Room  
Los Angeles, California 90020

PRESENT: Melina Abdullah (By telephone) Isabelle Gunning  
Cynthia Anderson-Barker Preeti Kulkarni  
Susanne Cumming Eleanor Montaño  
Adrian Dove Sandra Thomas (By telephone)  
Kathay Feng

ABSENT: Jarrett Tomas Barrios Michael Gi-Hao Cheung  
Donna Bojarsky Lea Ann King

STAFF: Elena Halpert-Schilt Emily Pacheco  
Grace Löwenberg Robert Sowell  
Kelsey Mulcahy, UCLA Luskin Fellow

1. **Call to Order/Flag Salute and Moment of Silence:** A quorum of the Commission was established with eight members present. President Cumming called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. Eleanor Montano led the pledge of allegiance.

At the start of the meeting newly appointed Commissioner Preeti Kulkarni was introduced. She is the Chief Operating Officer of the Liberty Hill Foundation, and was nominated by Third District Supervisor Sheila Kuehl.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Commissioner Anderson-Barker, and seconded by Commissioner Gunning, to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting held on July 6, 2015. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. **Public Comment:** No public comment was received or submitted.
4. **President's Report:**

4.1 **L.A. Youth Poet Laureate:** President Cumming informed the Commission that the Commission co-sponsored 2015 Youth Poet Laureate event was held at the end of

June at the L.A. Central Library. Pictures and video from the event are now online. Commission staff will send the website link to all Commissioners.

**4.2 Report on Meeting with Supervisor Kuehl:** President Cumming reported on a recent meeting with Third District Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, during which the Supervisor shared personal stories of working for many years as a counselor at a youth camp, and the lessons she learned that could be applicable to our youth human relations leadership work. Supervisor Kuehl also stressed the importance of coordinating the work of the Commission with other County departments, and to focus on the areas of work that the County has jurisdiction over. Her priority is to strengthen the safety net for the County's most vulnerable. Commission staff provided Supervisor Kuehl with an informational packet that detailed the work of the Commission. Impromptu meetings were also held with deputies Genethia Hudley-Hayes and Torie Osborn.

**5. Executive Director's Report:** Elena Halpert-Schilt, Assistant Executive Director, provided the Executive Director's report, and distributed information on mandatory training for Commissioners. The remainder of her report is listed below:

**5.1 9/27 to 10/1/2015 IAOHRA Conference, Birmingham, Alabama:** An email was sent to all Commissioners with information regarding the upcoming IAOHRA Conference in Birmingham, Alabama. Additional information was also provided in the agenda packet, including a draft agenda of the conference. Additional discussion and action on this topic is included in item 6.4.

**5.2 Watts 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events:** A list of events to be held in commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Watts Uprising was provided to the Commission, which included days of dialogue to be held in various locations through August 2016. After some discussion, Commissioners requested that future announcements of Commission sponsored events be provided to the Commission in writing with information on how to provide input on the planning of such events.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:** The special presentation by Meredith Gamson Smiedt of UCLA Center for Policing Equity was canceled due to illness.

**6. Actions Items:**

**6.1 Policing Practices and Human Relations:** Commissioner Abdullah provided a report on the recent meeting of the Commission's Ad Hoc Committee on Policing Practices and Human Relations. The committee discussed the goals of the proposed public hearing. Commissioner Abdullah indicated that the Committee continues to be in the planning stage, but has agreed to focus the hearing on gathering narratives and developing a report on recommendations for best practices. The Committee is scheduled to meet once more before the announcement of the hearing, which is scheduled for August 11. A draft statement announcing the hearing was previously distributed to the Commission, and commissioners were asked to provide any input before the committee meets again. The Commission delegated authority to the Committee to finalize the statement in time for it to be released on August 11.

It was moved by Commissioner Dove, and seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to delegate authority to the Ad Hoc Committee on Policing Practices to finalize and release the statement announcing the public hearing. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Anderson-Barker requested that the Committee also discuss the proposed subpoena power of the Civilian Oversight Board of the L.A. County Sheriff's Department.

**6.2 CAHRO Membership Dues:** Due to time constraints this item was tabled.

**6.3 IAOHRA Membership Dues:** Due to time constraints this item was tabled.

**6.4 IAOHRA Conference:** In the event that Commission funds are not available to cover the cost of having five representatives of the Commission (3 Commissioners and 2 Staff) attend the IAOHRA conference, the Commission approved the use of the JAF trust fund to cover the cost of each attendee at an amount not to exceed \$1,500 per person. Commissioners Cumming, Dove, and Abdullah expressed interest in attending.

It was moved by Commissioner Feng, and seconded by Commissioner Anderson-Barker, to approve the use of the JAF Trust Fund to cover the cost of travel to and attendance at the IAOHRA conference for three commissioners and two staff at an amount not to exceed \$1,500 per person, if Commission funds are not available. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**6.5 Sex Trafficking of Minors:** Commission Staff Robert Sowell and UCLA Luskin Fellow Kelsey Mulcahy provided a brief update on the report on commercial sex trafficking of minors. Staff continues to work on finalizing the recommendations included in the report.

**7. Committee Reports:** Ad Hoc Committee on Policing Practices and Human Relations- this report was previously received in item 6.1.

**8. Commissioner's Comments/Announcements:**

Commissioner Feng discussed potential legislation titled the Voting Rights Reauthorization Act. There are a series of events happening throughout the Country including a March from Selma to Washington D.C., and a local event that is co-hosted by the L.A. Federation of Labor and Common Cause. Commissioner Feng will be facilitating a panel on August 4, 2015 at noon at the L.A. Federation of Labor Headquarters. The focus is on how to protect voting rights. Commissioner Feng will provide additional information which will be shared with all Commissioners and staff.

**9. Adjournment:** It was moved by Commissioner Cynthia Anderson-Barker, and seconded by Commissioner Dove, to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 p.m. in memory of Leo Frederick Dalton, Jr., Life Partner of Commissioner King; Rosalie Ynez Hernandez, Emily Pacheco's Niece; Theodore Bikel, civil rights activist and performer; Sandra Bland, who was found dead in her jail cell in Texas after first being pulled over for a minor traffic stop; and Samuel

DuBose who was arrested in Cincinnati for not having a front license plate and then shot and killed.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Melina Abdullah  
Vice-President/Secretary

Note: Meeting is not normally held in August but Action Items needed to be discussed and/or approved.